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Claims:

1. A breathing device comprising, in fluid communication, a breathing channel and an exhaust channel extending from a junction therebetween; and  
5 a gas inlet channel arranged so as in use to introduce gas into said breathing channel such that in use a positive pressure may be maintained in the breathing channel, wherein the axis of the said gas inlet channel is laterally offset from the axis of the breathing  
10 channel at the point at which the gas inlet channel introduces the gas into the breathing channel.
2. A breathing device comprising, in fluid communication, a breathing channel and an exhaust  
15 channel extending from a junction therebetween; and a gas inlet channel arranged so as in use to introduce gas into said breathing channel such that in use a positive pressure may be maintained in the breathing channel, wherein the axis of the said gas inlet channel is  
20 laterally offset from the axis of the breathing channel at the point at which the gas inlet channel introduces the gas into the breathing channel from the axis of the narrowest part of the breathing channel.
- 25 3. A device as claimed in claim 2, with the breathing channel being of substantially constant cross-sectional area such that the gas inlet channel is laterally offset from the main axis of the breathing channel.
- 30 4. A device as claimed in any of claims 1, 2 or 3 wherein the breathing channel has a substantially circular cross-section.
- 35 5. A device as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the gas inlet channel opens into the breathing channel.
6. A device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the gas inlet

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channel is arranged to open into the junction between the breathing channel and the exhaust channel, on the outer side of the said junction.

5 7. A device as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the gas inlet channel is laterally offset from the axis of the breathing channel, or the central axis of its narrowest point, in the direction towards the exhaust channel.

10 8. A device as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the gas inlet channel is inclined relative to the breathing channel axis in the direction away from the exhaust channel.

15 9. A breathing device comprising, in fluid communication, a breathing channel and an exhaust channel extending from a junction therebetween; and a gas inlet channel arranged so as in use to introduce gas 20 into said breathing channel such that in use a positive pressure may be maintained in the breathing channel, wherein the axis of the said gas inlet channel is inclined relative to the axis of said breathing channel.

25 10. A device as claimed in claim 9, wherein the gas inlet channel axis is laterally offset at the point at which it joins the exhaust channel or laterally offset from an axis through the centre of a narrowed section of the breathing channel.

30 11. A device as claimed in any preceding claim comprising two or more gas inlet channels at different offsets and/or inclinations.

35 12. A device as claimed in any preceding claim, comprising a movable gas inlet channel.

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13. A device as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the gas inlet channel is narrower than either the exhaust or breathing channels.

5 14. A device as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the breathing and exhaust channels are substantially linear and meet substantially at a right angle or greater.

10 15. A device as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the breathing device is adapted to be attached directly to the face of a patient.

15 16. A device as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the breathing device is adapted to be connected to a mask.

20 17. A device as claimed in any preceding claim, comprising an elongate tube in fluid communication with the exhaust channel.